

LAFAYETTE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
LAFAYETTE REGIONAL SCHOOL  
FRANCONIA, NH 03580

DATE: July 24, 2018  
TIME: 5:00 PM

BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
Public Session

In attendance:

Board Chairman, Luther Kinney

Board Members: Denys Draper, Chris Thayer, Amy Mullins, Christi Gignac

Principal, Gordie Johnk

Business Manager, Kristin Franklin

Administrative Assistant, Toni Butterfield

Board Clerk, Lynne Warren

Community members – Megan Detamore, John Hynes, Carl Lakes, Bob Chibeault, Sarah Reeder, Toni Woodruff, Meghan McPhaul, Rich Grossman, Gail Seemueller, Peter Gignac, Andrea Price, Karl Stone, Adam Boyer

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 5:01 PM

Chairman Kinney and Board Member Christi Gignac provided a recap of the issue at hand: FCC is significantly cutting back their after-school care program for the upcoming school year, with plans to completely eliminate it in subsequent years. Some investigation has been done to determine currently available options, as well as how programs in other local communities are being facilitated.

It is the feeling of the board that a program needs to be implemented for the upcoming school year and a proposal has been developed for a pilot type program for the upcoming school year.

The evening of July 17, as a result of the meeting that day, an email survey was sent to Lafayette parents to gauge how many would utilize a local after-school program.

Christi Gignac presented the results from the survey:

70 surveys were emailed, 49 responses were received

60% of those who responded indicated they would utilize such a program

40% said they would not

The board felt there was a great response rate, especially considering the short time frame given to respond.

Subsequent to the July 17 meeting, Principal Johnk was to speak at the July 19 meeting of the Franconia Recreation Board. The Recreation Board still feels they would be unable to take on development and implementation of a program within a month – as would be required to have it in place by the time school begins.

Franconia Rec Board member Meghan McPhaul mentioned that there are many issues to consider: budgetary, administrative, space concerns, location, resources, etc. And because there is no budget for the program, there is no 'room' to lose money with it.

Principal Johnk reiterated that any program put in place MUST pay for itself because there is no budget anywhere (within the Rec Department or the School Board) to fund it.

Some key points Johnk discussed regarding the proposed program include:

- Ideally, sign up by the month, pay by the week.
- A document was distributed that outlines proposed salaries and identified costs associated with staffing. Overtime pay is an issue if a teacher leads program.
- Breakdown of per student, per day cost based on number of participants to fund salaries.
- For staffing, students will need to sign up a month ahead of time. Drop in rate would likely be double advance sign up rate.
- If program facilitated by the School Board, insurance is not an issue - already in place for other after school activities.
- Space considerations, conflicts with other after school activities / sports.
- Janitorial / cleaning concerns since cleaning would probably have to happen 'around' the kids and the program.
- Program would include outside activities, inside activities, crafts, homework, reading, snacks, homework time.
- Can't anticipate any funding from communities for this
- No program on holidays or school vacation days.
- Price would have to change based on how many students sign up for each month.

He reminded everyone that no one really wants to have to do this on such short notice, but there really is no good solution to the situation. Something must be done.

**Chairman Kinney opened the meeting to public input.**

Megan McPhaul asked about costs for supplies. Board member Gignac said they would ask for donations and potentially assistance from parents. The LPTO may also be able to provide assistance.

Peter Gignac mentioned that this is necessary so someone needs to step up and implement a program because without it, there will be a significant hardship on many families in the community.

Mr. Gignac asked a question of the Rec Board: For the first year, could the program operate under the auspice of the Rec Board but be coordinated by the school? This could alleviate the overtime issue that results from the school board paying the salary of a teacher staffing the program.

There would be a savings of approximately \$1600 per year in overtime and retirement benefits if the Rec Board is able to do this.

Megan McPhaul responded that it is a possibility, and could be discussed more with the School Board. In order for it to happen, the system would have to be set up with the Franconia town office.

Mr. Gignac also reiterated that the FCC program charge was approximately \$16 per day. If the new program has the anticipated 20 – 25 children per day the cost would be less than half that amount per child. So doing this would provide a better program at lower cost.

Bob Chibeault and Carl Lakes both had questions regarding funding of the new program, and whether there would be any subsidies from the towns.

Meghan McPhaul and Toni Butterfield gave clarification regarding funding. There would be no town subsidies, at least at this point.

Some discussion began regarding community member disappointment in the Recreation Department's reluctance to coordinate the program. Chairman Kinney suggested that it would be more appropriate that those concerns be expressed directly to the Rec Board at their meeting.

Adam Boyer, from the Rec Board clarified that their board was willing to help figure out a solution, but were just very concerned over the short time frame. Putting a program together is not as easy as some might think.

Clarification was provided that this program would go beyond what was provided by the FCC program. There would be lesson plans, homework time, age appropriate programming and more.

Karl Stone asked why some of the other local programs were so inexpensive. Principal Johnk specified that other programs are heavily subsidized by various means: endowments, recreation department budgets, fundraising, and grants. He mentioned that we may be able to secure grants in future years for this program.

**Chairman Kinney closed the meeting to public input.**

Kinney commented that normally when the School Board takes on new programs they take time to study and put it before the community for a vote prior to moving forward. The board would be much more comfortable with more solid planning, but that is not realistic in this instance. He suggested that the fee structure be based on 120% funding to ensure no taxing of the existing school budget.

Discussion ensued regarding locations that are being considered, and utilizing the bus service to transport children to the various locations that may be utilized for the program.

There was further discussion related to monthly commitments, weekly payments, drop-ins and no-shows. It was reiterated that this will be a 'bare bones', pilot program that will be modified and improved over time, hopefully in collaboration with other entities, and potentially shifted to another entity – possibly the recreation department – in the future.

Chris Thayer reminded the group that if no decision was made to support a program tonight, the only option for most parents is the Boys & Girls Club.

Kristin Franklin expressed that she was still concerned with the capacity and lack of time and resources to support and assist in development of the program over the next four weeks. She also expressed that she was relieved that so much of the effort required to research the business aspects of the program had been handled by others, including Toni Butterfield, Principal Johnk, and Christi Gignac.

**MOTION BY CHRIS THAYER, SECONDED BY AMY MULLINS TO MOVE FORWARD WITH CREATION OF A COMMITTEE WHO WOULD DEVELOP THE AFTER SCHOOL CARE PROGRAM AS PROPOSED, AND TO SECURE VOLUNTEERS FOR THE COMMITTEE TONIGHT. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED**

Kristin Franklin clarified that the first payroll will be September 7 so there must be funds available for that payroll. It was confirmed that with the proposed advance payment requirement for program fees, the funds would be available.

MOTION BY CHRIS THAYER, SECONDED BY AMY MULLINS, TO FORM AN AD-HOC JOINT COMMITTEE BETWEEN THE LAFAYETTE SCHOOL BOARD AND THE RECREATION DEPARTMENT BOARD TO DEVELOP A FULL AFTER-SCHOOL CARE PROGRAM, TO BE LAUNCHED AS EARLY AS JANUARY 1, 2019 OR BY THE BEGINNING OF THE 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR. FOUR VOTES IN FAVOR, ONE NO VOTE. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY CHRIS THAYER, SECONDED BY DENYS DRAPER TO AFFIRM THE LAFAYETTE SCHOOL BOARD FRUSTRATION OVER THE LACK OF COMMUNICATION AND PLANNING EXHIBITED BY FCC IN TRANSITIONING OUT OF / ENDING THEIR AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM FOR THE LAFAYETTE COMMUNITY. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

**Chairman Kinney opened the meeting again for public input.**

Adam Boyer asked if the Lafayette Recreation Board would be on the committee to develop the initial pilot program.

They will not be, but will potentially be consulted. There should be a parallel track involving both boards to develop a full program for the following school year.

Peter Gignac asked how the joint committee would be formed.

Each board will appoint 1 – 2 members to be a part of the committee to develop the subsequent program.

Megan Detamore requested that the committee to consider care for early release days.

Community members expressed thanks to Toni Butterfield, Gordi Johnk, and the School Board for their willingness to put kids and families first.

MOTION BY CHRISTI GIGNAC, SECONDED BY AMY MULLINS TO ADJOURN. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

**Meeting adjourned 6:28 PM**